

GRANTS CHLORINATED SOLVENTS PLUME SITE

Grants, New Mexico

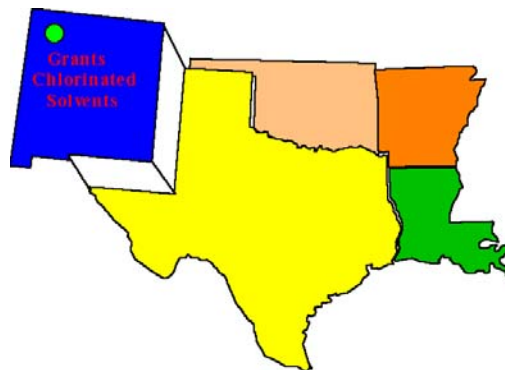
EPA Region 6

EPA ID#: NM0007271768

Site ID: 0605144

State Congressional District: 02

Fact Sheet Updated: November 2004



SITE DESCRIPTION

Location: The Grants Chlorinated Solvents Plume Site is located within the city limits of Grants, Cibola County, New Mexico.

Setting: The contamination is believed to be present in a shallow aquifer underlying residential and commercial facilities within the city of Grants.

Population: The city water wells located 2 miles from the site provides drinking water to approximately 14,000 residents in Grants, San Rafael and Milan.

The contamination is believed to be from one or more sources including a former dry cleaning facility located in the area. The plume is estimated to extend at least 600 feet to the south and 1600 feet to the east beyond Jefferson and Geis Streets.

PRESENT STATUS AND ISSUES

- The EPA is currently conducting a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS). The RI/FS will be conducted in phases to characterize the extent of contamination and is expected to be completed in Summer 2005. As part of the RI, the EPA is also conducting soil vapor and indoor air sampling at several homes near the source areas to determine if vapor intrusion is occurring from the subsurface.
- Three rounds of indoor air sampling have been conducted so far at several area homes. Data from indoor air indicates migration of volatile organic compounds from subsurface. EPA is evaluating the data and conducting a risk assessment to identify any potential long term health impacts from site contaminants.
- Soil and ground water samples have been collected at various locations to determine the extent of the plume. The lateral extent of the contamination has been defined with the data collected so far. During the next phase of the investigation the vertical extent of the contamination will be determined to fully characterize the plume.

WASTES AND VOLUMES

The primary contaminant of concern is PCE, a chlorinated solvent, has been found at levels up to 51,000 parts per billion (ppb) in the ground water. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), or Federal Drinking Water Standard, that is allowed under the Safe Drinking Water Act is 5 ppb.

- Chlorinated solvents are heavier than water and readily sink in ground water. An exact or calculated volume of the chlorinated solvent (PCE) released into the ground water at the is unknown at this time. However, very small amounts of these chemicals can contaminate large volumes of soil and ground water.
- The primary media affected by PCE contamination is the ground water, although residual contamination is still found in the soils up to ten feet. Because the contamination is found only in the subsurface, it is safe for people to live, work, in the area impacted.
- The drinking water supply wells for the city are located 2 miles north of the site and have not been impacted by the plume.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST

NPL Inclusion Proposal Date: March 8, 2004
NPL Final Date: July 22, 2004

SITE HISTORY

- The NMED initially discovered PCE contamination in 1993 during an Underground Storage Tank (UST) investigation at a gas station near the site. Additional sampling conducted at nearby UST sites confirmed the presence of chlorinated solvents in 14 of the 22 monitor wells at concentrations above the MCL.
- Several potential sources have been identified that are presently using or may have used chlorinated solvents in the past.
- Historically, chlorinated solvents apparently leaked from a storage tank on to the ground at one of the active dry cleaner properties.
- In 1999 and 2000 NMED conducted additional soil and ground water investigations and confirmed presence of chlorinated solvents.

ENFORCEMENT HISTORY

The EPA is currently researching and sending general notice letters to viable potential responsible parties that may have contributed to the contamination.

HUMAN HEALTH AND ECOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT

A risk assessment will be performed to determine whether site contaminants pose a current or future risk to human health and the environment in the absence of any remedial action. Included in this assessment will be an identification of contaminants of concern, an assessment of exposure to those contaminants through finalization of the site conceptual model, an assessment of the toxicity of those contaminants, and a characterization of risk. This characterization will provide a basis for determining whether remedial action is necessary at the site, describe for which exposure pathways remediation is necessary, and provide justification for performance of remedial actions. Included in this assessment will be characterization of risks to both human and ecological receptors.

RECORD OF DECISION

**A RECORD OF DECISION WILL BE DEVELOPED FOR THE GRANTS
CHLORINATED SOLVENTS PLUME SIT**

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Community Involvement Plan:
- Open houses and workshops: 10/2003, Planned 12/2004
- ROD Fact Sheet: Not Yet Issued.
- Milestone Fact Sheets: 10/2003
- Citizens on site mailing list:
- Site Repository: New Mexico State University Library, Grants Campus

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

TAG notice placed in the Cibola County Beacon on July 27, 2004.

SITE CONTACTS

EPA Remedial Project Manager:	Sai Appaji	214.665.3126 or 800.533.3508
EPA Site Attorney:	I-Jung Chiang	214.665.2160 or 800.533.3508
EPA Community Involvement:	Bob Johnson	214.665 6676 or 800.533.3508
EPA Contractor:	CH2M Hill	505.884.5600
EPA Region 6 Ombudsman	Arnold Ondarza	303.312.6777
New Mexico Environment Dept:	Carl Albury	505.827.0039